

Saturday, May 16, 2020

Turn off the outside "noise" for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God's Word.
I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.

PSALM 130 (NIV)

A SONG OF ASCENTS.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

² Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

³ If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷ Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

⁸ He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

— PART 3 —

*I found that when a passage of Scripture has been very familiar to me for a long time — such as this passage! — if I will simply **slow down** . . . take my time . . . and read thoughtfully and reflectively, it can become alive to me in new and fresh ways.*

PSALM 130 (NIV)

³ **If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?**

What the Psalmist says here is almost identical to what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:5, "**Love keeps no record of wrongs.**" Because fortunately for us, as we saw yesterday, our Lord does **NOT** keep a permanent, ongoing record of sins! And equally fortunately for us, verse 4 also brings relief!

⁴ **But with you there IS forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.**

In fact, God's Word is peppered with **evidence of the Lord's forgiveness!**

ISAIAH 44:22 (NLT)

I have **SWEPT AWAY** your sins like a cloud.
I have **SCATTERED YOUR OFFENSES** like the morning mist.
Oh, return to me, *for I have paid the price to SET YOU FREE.*"

MICAH 7:18-19 (NIV & NLT)

¹⁸ **Who is a God like you, who PARDONS sin
and FORGIVES the transgression** of his special people?
You...delight to SHOW MERCY.
¹⁹ *You will again have compassion on us;*
you will...HURL ALL OUR INIQUITIES INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA.

PSALM 103:10-12 (NIV)

¹⁰ **The Lord DOES NOT TREAT US** as our sins deserve
OR REPAY US according to our iniquities.
¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
¹² *as far as the east is from the west,*
so far has he REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS from us.

ISAIAH 38:17 (NIV)

In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction;
YOU HAVE PUT ALL MY SINS BEHIND YOUR BACK.

COLOSSIANS 2:13-14 (The Message)

When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life,
you were *incapable* of responding to God.
God brought you alive — right along with Christ!
Think of it! *All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean,*
that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross.

ISAIAH 43:25 (NIV)

"I, even I, am he who **BLOTS OUT your transgressions,**
for my own sake, and **REMEMBERS YOUR SINS NO MORE.**

Bruce Waltke describes the ***flood-relief*** of the Lord's forgiveness!

"The chaotic depths of guilt, like a tsunami wave, overwhelm the covenant people. This song for over two and half millennia has buoyed the covenant people to survive the flood. Drowning in unspecified guilt, our inspired poet exemplifies saving faith in God's forgiveness. **Forgiveness includes the cancelation of sin's punishment, BUT FIRST AND FOREMOST IT RESTORES A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.** His persevering faith in God's mercy is reasonable. History proves God is forgiving: "If you, 'I AM,' kept a close watch on iniquities, Lord of All, who could stand?" (v. 3). But humanity endures! **The glory of the God of Israel is his attribute of mercy** (EXOD. 33:18–34:8). **The psalm expands the penitent tax-collector's prayer, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner"** (LUKE 18:13), into a song of trust aimed to move God to reshape history. Full salvation depends solely on **God's** grace, not on **human** merit.

BRUCE K. WALTKE, JAMES M. HOUSTON, & ERIKA MOORE, *The Psalms as Christian Lament: A Historical Commentary*

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*LOVING FATHER, we thank you and praise you and bless you for forgiving our sins,
cancelling our punishment for sin, and "restoring our relationship with God"!*

Pastor Doug